

Name of Project: Washoe County School District

E. Otis Vaughn Middle School Name of Project Director: Ginny Knowles, Principal

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Number of students in FY13: 271

E. Otis Vaughn Middle School GEAR UP Abstract 2012-2013

Vaughn Middle School is committed to supporting GEAR UP which will serve 217 7th graders the first year. Of Vaughn's 536 students, 80% are on the free/reduced lunch program. Sheryl Hicks will serve as GEAR UP (GU) Head Counselor (.5 FTE) to oversee the project and work with a full-time Student-Parent Involvement Facilitator (SPIF). The SPIF will serve as primary contact/liaison with Vaughn GU families, primary coordinator of all GU activities, and collect student data.

This grant will provide Vaughn GU students a continuous system of mentoring, advising, tutoring, and counseling toward college/career readiness and a college-going culture will be fostered at the school. GU student academic progress will be monitored by the Head Counselor, school counselors, and SPIF, who will follow them from middle to high school, and develop a program of study and an information database to track and guide each GU student.

College Ambassadors will be welcomed at Vaughn and the GU Head Counselor and SPIF will collaborate with them and other staff to build community relationships to enhance student learning. A dedicated College Corner in the school will allow students to discuss and research college/career options, financial aid, and required academic courses with the SPIF, GU Head Counselor, and College Ambassadors.

Two campus tours will be planned for students and parents to learn about higher education and other career paths. Vaughn students will learn about High School Signature Academies that provide programs to increase college and career readiness.

Vertical alignment work will be emphasized in PLCs and early-release Wednesdays. iPads will be funded through GU to help engage students and help them with STEM, financial literacy, among other areas. Parent workshops will address educational resources and financial/scholarship education. Vaughn will also leverage other funding revenues to support GU students to succeed at higher levels.